I’m Bryan Grimaldi, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for National Grid.

Thank you to the CAC for all your hard work on the Plan. I’ll be brief with longer comments in the portal.

The Final Scoping Plan will lead to regulations that will affect every New Yorker for decades to come. National Grid and our peer utilities are held to an extraordinarily high standard on stakeholder engagement. We are deeply engaged in this process as are environmentalists, and those for whom Climate Change is a “top of mind” issue, yet the general public are not engaged with the issues being debated, and have little to no awareness of the broad implications the Final Scoping Plan will have on their daily lives. **The Council should undertake a public education campaign prior to finalizing the Scoping Plan.**

It is clear from these hearings that there is great passion for these issues, and that the comments tend to fall equally into two categories, an “electrify everything” approach, and those who favor a “hybrid” solution. The Plan favors the use of electricity for heating and cooking in homes and businesses, and proposes moving away from the use of natural gas. Electrification will play a crucial role in meeting our climate goals to be sure, and National Grid will electrify a lot, **but the enormous challenge in front of us demands a range of practical, pragmatic and cost-effective solutions beyond merely electrification – and engagement to date heavily favors such an approach.**

National Grid’s plans to fully eliminate fossil fuels from our US networks and our plan will achieve the requirements of the CLCPA on time, in an affordable and reliable way that preserves choice for our customers – **and does not place the State’s future in the hands of a single solution.**

It should be noted that the CLCPA neither requires the elimination of gas, nor does it require absolute zero in emissions. Absolutism is the enemy of good, and it hard to envision how the State will achieve its climate goals without both a decarbonized gas network and combustion.

Our most recent survey shows that 85% of New Yorkers are supportive of fossil free initiatives and are strongly receptive to the idea of using the already-existing infrastructure, along with hydrogen and RNG - to achieve a clean energy future that also ensures reliability and affordability. An educated consumer is more likely to reject the current trajectory of the Plan and embrace National Grid’s Vision, as you have seen from our partners in labor, and from Editorial Board throughout the State.

Other issues with the Draft Scoping Plan include: (1) significant flaws in “life-cycle emission accounting” (2) the lack of a cost analysis (3) concerns over resilience and reliability and (4) the lack of customer choice.

**We urge the Council to address these issues and consider a hybrid pathway.**

Thank you.